

Complications of liver trauma

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A subcapsular or intrahepatic haematoma requires no specific intervention and should be allowed to resolve spontaneously. Abscesses may form as a result of secondary infection of an area of parenchymal ischaemia and treatment is systemic antibiotics and US-guided aspiration once liquefaction has occurred. Bile collections require US-guided aspiration with/ without drain insertion and biliary fistulae are investigated by endoscopic or percutaneous cholangiography with/without stent insertion for biliary decompression. If a fistula persists liver resection may be required. Late vascular complications include hepatic artery aneurysms and arteriovenous fistulae (hepatic artery to hepatic vein, César Roux, 1857–1934, Professor of Surgery and Gynaecology, Lausanne, Switzerland. Described the Roux-en-Y loop in 1908.) tension) and arteriovenous fistulae indicated by haemobilia are treated by embolisation. Hepatic insufficiency may occur following extensive liver trauma but usually recovers following supportive treatment if the blood supply and biliary drainage - to an adequate liver remnant are preserved (Figure 69.11). - Summary box 69.8 - Complications of liver trauma

Unstable Liver Resuscitate trauma • Investigate • Peritoneal lavage • Ultrasound Stable • CT • Laparoscopy • Angiography Figure 69.11 Algorithm for management of liver trauma. CT, computed tomography. Intrahepatic haematoma Biliary strictures Liver abscess Intra-abdominal collections Bile collection Hepatic artery aneurysm Biliary fistula Arteriovenous fistulae Haemobilia Arteriovenous fistulae Ascites Liver failure

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